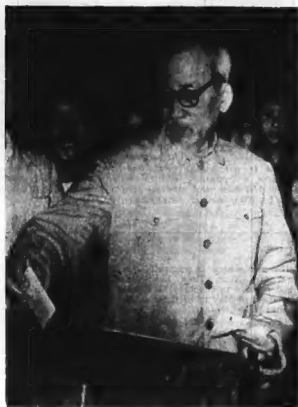


VIETNAM COURIER

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May 20
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5th Year

RECEIVED
★ A Step Forward of South Viet Nam
People's Forces. JUL 2 1968
★ The U.S.A. Must First and Foremost Put
A Complete and Unconditional End to
the Bombing and All Other Acts of War
Against the D.R.V.N.
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President Ho Chi Minh casting his vote at Hanoi
municipal elections (April 28, 1968)

ON MAY 19, 1968

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH IS 78

FOR more than a century, in Viet Nam, the struggle for independence has become the nation's major preoccupation. Each generation tried to find a solution, every citizen asked himself how to put an end to the colonial regime. For a long time, in the eyes of many, difficulties seemed insurmountable. With their weapons, their troops, their political and financial means, imperialism and colonialism seemed invincible. How many patriots had fought heroically against the enemy, but without a glimmer of victory at the end of their life.

It was Ho Chi Minh who showed the Vietnamese people the way to independence, who forged the instruments of struggle and gradually led the Vietnamese revolution to victory.

For more than sixty years, he has been seeking and fighting, unrelentingly and unswervingly, devoting his whole life to the cause of the nation and that of the revolution. He founded, in succession, the Party, the Vietnam Front, the People's Army, the first Government of the D.R.V.N. Together with the Party, he

directed the victorious resistance against the French colonialists, then the radical transformations which have turned the country into the first socialist State in South-East Asia.

His personal daily life has become a living example for all — for the fighter at the frontline, the factory manager, the college professor, as well as for the head of an agricultural co-op. Not only does everyone know what policy to follow in all circumstances, he is also aware of the human qualities he must acquire: courage, firmness about principles, total selflessness, absolute devotion to the masses, humanity, modesty, simplicity and sense of collectivism in order to deserve the title name of revolutionary.

At a time when the Vietnamese people are confronting in a force ever the most fully equipped and most modern imperialism that of the U.S.A., President Ho Chi Minh appears as the symbol of that unshakable resistance opposed to the aggressor by the whole country, from North to South. Each of his appeals resonates deeply in all hearts for he gives concrete and clear-cut

Lawyer NGUYEN HUU THO Thanks President HO CHI MINH:

"The South Viet Nam People Are Resolved To March Toward Final Victory."

In the name of the President of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho has expressed in a reply warm thanks to President Ho Chi Minh for his message dated May 8, 1968, praising the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam for "having been mounting the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings with great efficiency and winning tremendous victories."

The reply message reads in part:

"IN this extremely exhilarating and glorious hour of the struggle for national liberation, the people of the South promise to President Ho Chi Minh and their 17 million kith-and-kin compatriots of the North that so long as the American imperialists do not bring their war of aggression against South Viet Nam to an end, withdraw all American and satellite troops, and let the South Vietnamese people decide their own destiny, the people of South Viet Nam and their patriotic armed forces, united as one man, will never loose hold of their weapons and be resolved to fight to a finish. Only by so doing will they deserve President Ho Chi Minh's praise. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. No cruel force, no reactionary power, no perfidious manoeuvre can shake the South Vietnamese people's determination to fight and win, and prevent them from marching toward final victory."

South Viet Nam

SAIGON: — Two Puppet Para Battalions Put out of Action on May 10 and 11, One Australian Battalion and One Company Wiped Out on May 13 — P.L.A.F. and People Get Control of Half the City and Hammer at the Enemy in Other Town Quarters.

TAY NINH: — U.S. Signal Central Stormed.

MEKONG DELTA: — Five Puppet Battalions and One U.S. Battalion Wiped Out or Decimated in Four Days.

SOUTHWEST OF DA NANG: — A "U.S. Special Forces" Camp Seized, Two Companies and Two Platoons Wiped Out, 16 Planes and Helicopters Downed.

North Viet Nam

First Half of May: 45 U.S. Planes Downed.

UP TO MAY 17, 1968

2,923 U.S. Aircraft Grounded.

shape to what is more or less clearly in everybody's mind, and arouses in all the noblest sentiments and deepest aspirations.

For 14 years now, the Americans have spent billions of dollars, dropped millions of tons of bombs, resorted to all kinds of psychomotor tricks without ever succeeding in tarnishing Uncle Sam's image in the hearts of our Southern compatriots. More splendidly than ever, his image shines and inside our renewed strength into the fighters.

A profound patriot, Ho Chi Minh was also the first Viet-

namese to show his people the road of proletarian internationalism. By all the fibres of his being, he is bound to the Vietnamese land, nation and people; but also by all the fibres of his being, he is bound to the world revolution. In the very first days of his militant life he participated in the struggle of all colonial peoples, took up in moving accents the defence of African Black people, and resolutely supported the October Revolution.

His internationalism is not an abstract slogan, Ho Chi Minh knows how to

impart to his people that respect and affection for all peoples of the world—including the American people—which characterizes proletarian internationalism.

The Vietnamese people, from North to South, are happy and proud of having Uncle Ho at their head. They feel greatly delighted to know that he is in very good health and is steering the destiny of the nation with an unswerving hand.

Marching along the path charted by Uncle Ho, the Vietnamese people are sure to win.

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● Up to now Hoa Binh, a mountainous province in the Northwest of North Viet Nam possesses over 300 amateur theatrical troupes performing mostly in the countryside. Each village in the Mai Chau Highland boasts two troupes on the average. Many of them have written plays in their own languages.

Military Operations

IN South Viet Nam, the P.L.A.F. continue to hammer at the enemy. Violent attacks were recorded in particular since the night of May 4.

According to reports released by *Giai Phong Press Agency*, up to May 13, the enemy was struck at least in 111 cities, towns and urban centers and about 30 bases of various kinds, 10 battalions and scores of companies of the U.S., Australian and puppet armies were put out of action.

The enemy's command which was facing a great shortage of manpower witnessed in the last few days the wiping out of thousands of its best troops in all theatres of operations at a quicker tempo than in the Tet offensive. Thus, in the northeastern provinces of South Viet Nam (Quang Tri and Thua Thien) the enemy took 1,000 casualties (most of them G.I.'s) on May 5 and 6. In the Sakh sector, nearly 700 U.S. Marines and "cav." were put of action between May 5 and 13. In Binh Dinh province, 470 km northeast of Saigon, U.S. para Brigade 173 lost on May 5 and 6 two armored companies and three infantry companies. In Saigon and periphery from May 5 to 9, the P.L.A.F. and insurgent civilians killed or wounded 7,500 enemy troops, including 5,500 G.I.'s. In the Mekong Delta, the enemy lost 6 battalions between May 5 and 8.

The U.S. Command has not only seen "fixation abuses" at Khe Sanh as at the beginning of this year. At present, besides the 6,000 U.S. Marines pinned down in the famous basin on Highway No. 9, thousands of other U.S. paratroopers and puppet soldiers, left in the lurch in another valley southwest of Hue, at A So, and on Road No. 11, are tied down far from assailed towns and urban centers. The remnants of enemy mobile forces station-

ed in the north, made up chiefly of Marines and First Cav., are committed at Dong Ha, a peripheral sector, where since April 29, the P.L.A.F. have put out of action at least 4,000 enemy soldiers, mostly G.I.'s, in two weeks. Thus whittled down, the U.S. combat troops are more weakened than previously.

THE enemy war technical means were also P.L.A.F. choices targets as in February last. Among the targets of the P.L.A.F., there were about thirty airfields. Dozens of planes and helicopters were downed in battle while hundreds of them were destroyed on the ground: 35 helicopters on May 4, on a Luoi airfield, 45km southwest of Hue; 10 at Bien Hoa and 10 at Dong Da, base of U.S. Division 25, northwest of Saigon (May 5); and 28 at Tan Son Nhut the following day. In Saigon and its periphery, 30 planes and choppers were downed or destroyed between May 5 and 9.

Hundreds of tanks, armored cars and lorries have been destroyed by the P.L.A.F. The most striking examples are: on May 5 alone, 80 vehicles were destroyed in a park north of Hue; 36 armored cars near Da Nang; 42 at Dong Du; 30 in a base of U.S. Armoured Regiment 11, 50km southeast of Bien Hoa; near Saigon, on May 8, 74 tanks and armored amphibious cars were damaged or destroyed in an attack on a park 18km northwest of the town, and four days later, 50 others and 10 ordnance pieces were destroyed 7km from Tan Son Nhut. The enemy also suffered heavy losses in many ambushes: over 100 vehicles were destroyed or burnt in three ambushes on May 4, 6 and 8, respectively southwest of Can Tho (Mekong Delta), near Ca Chi, northwest of Saigon and south of

Kontum (Western High Plateau).

The P.L.A.F. also pounded waterways: On May 3, a 10,000-ton cargo boat was set afire between Saigon and the sea; on May 6, 4 vessels were sunk on the Perfume River below Hue; on May 8, 9 were sent to the bottom and 2 others burnt northeast of Ben Tre town in a branch of the Mekong River; the following day, 3 freighters including a 10,000-ton ship were damaged below Saigon; on May 11, near Ca Mau, the southernmost tip of South Viet Nam, 3 vessels were sunk.

After destroying bridges and sabotaging miles of road, chiefly around Saigon and in the Mekong Delta, the P.L.A.F. and civilians have virtually cut off vital centers of the enemy who has thus been unable to put up a consistent resistance even in narrow sectors.

Finally, the depots and logistic bases of the enemy have always been selected targets of the P.L.A.F. The big "complex" at Long Binh, northeast of Saigon, which had been subjected to many assaults, was gutted for hours by a big fire. Many fuel tanks at Nha Be, near Saigon, were set afire after a many days' pounding by P.L.A.F. artillery. The May 14 shelling of Dong Ha turned this town into a big conflagration visible in the day within a 30 km radius.

ENGAGEMENT IN SAIGON

THE battle in Saigon took pride of place in the last week's military operations.

Three U.S. brigades hurriedly dispatched to Saigon to reinforce the depleted puppet army suffered heavy losses. Street fighting went on on May 13 and 14 in many town quarters, chiefly the Y-shaped bridge south of the city. Phu Tho race-course (now a military base of puppet troops) and Tan Tho Hippodrome, north of Tan Son Nhut airbase, where two puppet army battalions were put out of action on May 10 and 11. The military and administrative offices located in

"fashionable" districts continue to be harassed by P.L.A.F. artillery on May 15.

Northwest of Saigon on May 13, a U.S. company and a puppet company were put out of action by the P.L.A.F. who seized the signal centre at Ba Den near Tay Ninh town.

At 85 km southwest of Da

Nang, near the Viet Nam-Lao frontier, on May 13, the P.L.A.F. forced the enemy to evacuate by air the "peace forces" camp at Dac Nho. In 3 days, the enemy had a company and 3 platoons wiped out, 10 aircraft including 14 freighters downed and an important quantity of war material seized by the P.L.A.F.

SAIGON - CHOLON - GIA DINH ALLIANCE CONVENES MEETING

A meeting of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces in Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh was convened on May 14 at a locality near Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. The meeting studied the National Salvation Manifesto of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, set up the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh Committee of Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and issued an emergency appeal to the people in the area.

The meeting was attended by members of its Preparatory Committee, and representatives of patriotic and democratic forces composed of personalities, intellectuals, students, writers, artists, journalists, industrialists, traders, Saigon army officers, puppet administrative personnel, etc., who are of different political and religious convictions, and various organizations in Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh.

Speaking on behalf of the Preparatory Committee, Professor Le Van Giap made an assessment of the valiant struggle waged for national salvation by the Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh people, and the great successes the latter had won as a contribution to the cause of national liberation of the entire people in South Viet Nam. The professor laid special stress on the offensive and uprisings conducted by the Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh people who, in so doing, are dealing one stunning blow after

another at the enemy, right in the region.

The gathering fully approved the National Salvation Manifesto of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, its position and program of action, and completely agreed with its sensible attitude regarding the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Through discussions and changes of views, the meeting elected the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh Committee of Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, whose members fully represented the various patriotic, democratic and peace forces in the region.

The emergency appeal unanimously passed by the meeting called on the population in Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh to actively join the Alliance or act in co-ordination with it in order to consolidate and broaden further the united front against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

The appeal was signed on behalf of the Alliance in Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh area by its Chairman - Professor Le Van Giap - and its Secretary General - Ho Huu Nhat, ex-President of the Students' Union.

The meeting sent a message to the Central Committee of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F., expressing its confidence in the latter and pledging itself to do its best to help achieve the sacred objectives expounded in the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. Manifesto.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL DRIVE

ACCORDING to still incomplete figures released by *Giai Phong Press Agency*, in 75 days of uprisings (from January 31 to April 15, 1968) a total count of over 3 million urban and rural people, armed with rudimentary weapons, co-ordinated their action with the P.L.A.F. attacks on the enemy. They killed or hunted down cruel troops, destroyed puppet administration in town districts and hamlets. They assaulted the "pacification" teams, wip-

ed them out or drove them from their assignment areas, thus foiling the "pacification" plan of the enemy. Over 100 villages and 600 hamlets with 1,500,000 inhabitants were liberated. Popular power has been set up in the liberated areas of Ca Mau province and in most of the liberated zones of the provinces of My Tho, Kim Hoa, Ben Tre, An Giang, Long An, Lam Tho, Quang Ngai, Quang Nam, Thua Thien, Quang Tri, etc. Even in Saigon and the area the people have got control

of many streets and town districts and carried out armed propaganda in areas still held by the enemy.

The people contributed to the wrecking of enemy communication lines and joined "people's logistic services," carried supplies, evacuated the wounded and helped the armed forces. The popular power - a strong achievement - were also very active in talking enemy soldiers into surrendering their posts and weapons or over with their bits to the side of the revolution.



G.I.'s scrambling for shots in execution places at Khe Sanh